

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CASC, MX

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL/DEPARTMENT INTERVIEWING TEAM

REF: MEXICO 4695 AND 4793

FOR AMBASSADOR AND LOREN LAWRENCE FROM SCA ADMINISTRATOR

1. APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUING PERSONAL EFFORTS TO FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF REVIEW OF CONSULAR SERVICES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN MEXICAN JAILS AS RELATED BY LAWRENCE. I REGRET THAT RABASA AND PERHAPS OTHER GOM OFFICIALS HAVE, FOR WHATEVER REASONS, MISTAKENLY CONCLUDED THAT OUR EFFORTS CONSTITUTE A U. S. CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION OF MEXICAN INSTITUTIONS AND/OR A LACK OF TRUST IN OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS. AS YOU KNOW, WE DID NOT INTEND TO CREATE SUCH AN IMPRESSION AND CERTAINLY THE METHOD WE PROPOSED FOR CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEWS, INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS, WAS IN NO WAY REPEAT NO WAY MOTIVATED BY ANY LACK OF CONFIDENCE OF OUR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES IN MEXICO. I HOPE YOU MADE THIS CLEAR TO RABASA. OUR INTENTION HAS BEEN AND IS TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER LEGISLATORS, AND I THOUGHT THIS HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD BY ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA, AS REFLECTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HIS FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN MY CONVERSATION WITH HIM.

2. THE SPECIAL INTERVIEWING TEAM WAS CREATED ON AN AD HOC BASIS BECAUSE IT WAS REALIZED THAT SUCH A GROUP WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO INTENSELY FAMILIARIZE ITSELF

BOTH HERE AND IN MEXICO WITH THE DETAILS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION (I.E., THE RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY, STARK'S FILES, CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE LIAISON WITH SCA, STATEMENTS FROM WITNESSES, ETC.) AS WELL AS EVENTUAL AVAILABILITY FOR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE. USING REGULARLY ASSIGNED CONSULAR STAFF FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD UNDULY BURDEN THE EMBASSY. HOWEVER, SCA DOES EXPECT SUCH REGULARLY ASSIGNED CONSULAR STAFF TO AID AND LEAD, WHERE NECESSARY, THE SPECIAL TEAM IN THEIR EFFORTS. I SPECIFICALLY INTRODUCED FRED SMITH TO THE COMMITTEE ON APRIL 29, GAVE HIM MY ENDORSEMENT AND SINGLED OUT HIS ASSIGNMENT AS ONE OF THE MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO INSURE CONTINUITY IN CONSULAR SERVICES.

3. IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL AIDS SUPERVISE THE INQUIRY. THEIR ROLE WAS AND IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK OF THE TEAM AND THEIR PRESENCE WAS APPROVED SIMPLY TO PERMIT THEM TO OBTAIN A PERSONAL FEEL FOR THE SITUATION. ACCORDINGLY, SCA DID NOT ANTICIPATE SEEKING DESIGNATION OR COMMISSIONING OF SUCH CONGRESSIONAL AIDS AS CONSULAR OFFICERS.

4. GIVEN RABASA'S RESPONSE TO YOU AND DESPITE MY BELIEF THAT OUR PROPOSED FORMAT FOR THE INTERVIEWS WAS WELL WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, WE ARE WILLING, IN THE INTEREST OF HARMONY AND COOPERATION, TO CONSIDER AND WORK WITHIN THE TERMS OF ANY REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS.

5. GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SCA IS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE GOM HAS MODIFIED ITS POSITION AND MADE PROPOSALS UNDER WHICH WORK ON THIS PROJECT MAY CONTINUE. IT IS HOPED THAT THE RESPONSE OF THE GOM WILL CONTINUE TO BE FAVORABLE AND PERMIT US TO GET THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO RESPOND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. INGERSOLL

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